

CABINET HOLDS WAR EXISTS NOW; FIRM FOR DEFENSE MEASURES

FLAWS REVEALED IN STORY "BENNIE" TELLS OF ACTIONS ON DAY OF HILAIR MURDER

In Brooklyn, He Says, but Two Report Seeing Him Manhattan-Bound.

LATE HOME AT NIGHT.

Wife Declares Sternberg Told of Meeting "Peach"—He Sticks to Alibi.

Police Inspector Cray announced late this afternoon that he did not intend to release Benjamin Sternberg, the "Bennie" who admitted acquaintance with Mrs. Elsie Lee Hilair, and that if necessary he would go before a Magistrate and ask that he be held on a short affidavit.

The progress of the inquisition of Sternberg at the Second Branch Detective Bureau, Inspector Cray added, had been decidedly satisfactory, although it was pointed out that the police had nothing tangible to connect Sternberg with the strangling of Mrs. Hilair in the Hotel Martini on Thursday.

However, it was also stated, there were a number of discrepancies in the statements which Sternberg had made to the police regarding his movements on the day of the murder. At the outset Sternberg stoutly maintained that he had not been in Manhattan at all last Thursday, the day Mrs. Hilair was strangled to death in the Hotel Martini for the jewels on her fingers. But the police to-day found two persons who had seen him on his way to New York.

One of these, a policeman attached to the Coney Island Station and an acquaintance of Sternberg's, met him on a Fulton Street elevated train from East New York shortly after 11 o'clock. Before Sternberg alighted from the train at Flatbush Avenue the policeman asked him where he was going.

"I've got a date with a chicken," Sternberg replied, according to the policeman.

Another witness who has come forward is Mrs. Hoelchar of No. 289 Macon Street, Brooklyn. She said she saw Sternberg in a New York bound subway train at Borough Hall about a quarter after 12 o'clock on Thursday.

Another refutation of Sternberg's statement that he was not in Manhattan on Thursday has been found, the police believe, in the discovery that he pawned one of his rings in a Bowery place on the afternoon of that day.

Sternberg has held to the statement that he did not leave his home in Brownsville until noon or a quarter after, but two witnesses have stated they saw him far from there either at that time or before it.

To Mr. Joyce Sternberg said he had had drinks with three men toward 6 o'clock Thursday evening in Mertz's saloon at Broadway and Ralph Avenue.

These men were found by the police. They admitted having seen Sternberg in the saloon on Thursday night, but asserted it was not until 7.30 o'clock. At that time they said they were drinking with women and were joined by Sternberg, who had one drink with

HELSENGFORS IS CAPTURED BY RUSSIANS AFTER RIOTS

Admiral Shot and Fourteen Officers Aboard Warships Killed at Finnish Capital.

STOCKHOLM, March 20.—Helsingfors City, Finland, is in the hands of Russian troops, following a week of riots. Admiral Njoton was shot and fourteen officers aboard warships in the harbor were killed, according to information reaching here to-day.

Helsingfors is the capital of the Russian province of Finland and is connected with Petrograd by a direct railroad.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Abolition of the gendarmes, which has been the centre of Finnish dislike of the Russian Government, was reported in despatches reaching here to-day from Stockholm. Mass meetings throughout the whole section, expressed confidence in the revolutionary Government.

THREE INTERED GERMANS ESCAPED BY ICY PLUNGE

Four Recaptured at Philadelphia Navy Yard Had \$1,000 in New Bills and Lists of Sympathizers.

(Special to The Evening World.) PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—At least three of the German sailors who made a dash for liberty by plunging into the icy back channel at the Philadelphia Navy Yard late last night escaped, according to information received to-day.

Three German uniforms were found by the police on the banks of the Schuylkill, more than half a mile from where the raiders are interned. The indications are, the police say, that the escaping sailors were assisted by confederates.

Another German plot is suspected. Four German sailors were recaptured last night. These men when searched were found to have more than \$1,000 in new bills. They carried lists of names of Germans or German sympathizers in this city, who, it is supposed, were expected to give the men shelter. The men recaptured have been placed under heavy guard in the Marine Barracks. Mounted police and marines are searching the grounds outside the Navy Yard for some trace of the missing men.

BILL FOR CONSTABULARY IS PASSED BY SENATE

Democrats, Bitterly Opposing Measure, Fail to Defeat It by Two Votes.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 20.—After the longest and most heated debate of the session, the Senate this afternoon passed the Mills State Constabulary bill. The vote was ayes 26, noes 24. The Republicans, led by Senator E. H. Brown, and the Democrats, under the whip of Senator Robert F. Wagner, split squarely in the debate. Senator Wagner and his colleagues opposed the bill as unnecessary and entailing an unusual expense upon people of the City of New York for State purposes.

The opponents of the bill argued that it was intended as a blow at organized labor.

CZAR'S LAST HOUR AS RUSSIAN RULER TOLD IN DETAIL

Refused to Listen to Advice to Open Dvina Front to Germans.

FOR SPEEDY VICTORY.

Foreign Minister Declares War Will Be Pushed by the New Regime.

PETROGRAD, March 20.—The history of the last hour of Emperor Nicholas as ruler of Russia is related by a correspondent of the Oudro Rossi of Moscow as follows:

Two trains arrived at the station at Vshera (on the Moscow-Petrograd Railroad, 125 miles southeast of Petrograd) on the night of March 14. One train carried the Emperor's suite, the second the Emperor, General Baron Fredericks, Minister of the Imperial House; Rear Admiral Niloff, General Zabel and others. Nicholas, called from headquarters by the Empress, was on the way to the Tsarskoe-Selo.

None of the telegrams about the revolution sent by President Rodzanko of the Duma had reached the Emperor. General Zabel protested.

Just then Commander Voyekoff entered with a telegram stating that 700 of the St. George cavalry were on the way to Tsarskoe-Selo to present a cross to the Emperor and had arrived at the nearby station of Dno, headed by General Ivanoff.

"Your Majesty," said Voyekoff, "it is enough that you appear at the Tsarskoe-Selo in the midst of these heroes and, with the Tsarskoe-Selo garrison, go to the Duma. All the troops will remember their oath. It will be easy to overcome these young soldiers."

"It is a lie, your Majesty," shouted General Zabel. "You are deceived. Read these telegrams. Here is the order: 'To the Imperial train at Vshera: Do not send the train to Tsarskoe-Selo but to Petrograd.'"

The Emperor arose and exclaimed: "What does this mean? Is it revolution? Is Grekoff who signed the order to divert the train commander in Petrograd?"

Then Gen. Zabel spoke out, saying: "There are 60,000 troops, with officers, backing the temporary government. Your Majesty has been declared deposed. It is impossible to go further."

Nicholas, completely nonplussed, exclaimed:

"Why was I not told before? Why tell me now, when all is finished? After a moment he added, with a gesture of helplessness: 'Let it be so, Thank God. I will abdicate if that is what the people want.'"

GREAT GERMAN RETIREMENT IN NORTH FRANCE GOES ON; TOWNS BURNED TO GROUND

Forerunner of Greatest Battle in History, Declare Military Experts.

NEAR 'HINDENBURG LINE'

Allied Armies Recapture 1,300 Square Miles of Territory as Germans Flee.

LONDON, March 20.—The great German retreat in France goes on unchecked. It is an orgy of destruction and pillage. Military experts predict that it is the forerunner of the greatest battle in the history of the world.

British and French armies, pressing forward with wonderful elan, are approaching the famous "Hindenburg line," running from Lille, through Douai, Cambrai, St. Quentin, LaFere, Laon to the Aisne River, at a point just north of Rheims.

The French are five miles from St. Quentin and LaFere, and the British only a little more distant from Cambrai. The German retirement has not spread north of Arras, but is under way a few miles southeast of Soissons, where the line in France bends to the east.

In three days the Germans have surrendered 1,300 square miles of France and 250 cities, towns and villages. Their losses have been terrible in their rear guard actions against French and British cavalry and light artillery.

The Allies are advancing over smoldering ruins. Never in history has there been a more ruthless destruction than that done by the Teutons in their retirement. Towns and villages have been burned to the ground; farm houses destroyed, crops burned, fruit trees uprooted, bridges and roads blown up, and every member of the civilian population—male and female—who might aid France, has been sent a secret prisoner to Germany.

The LaFere-Cambrai line has wonderful natural strength and the Germans have fortified it with all their engineering skill. If their scheme was to lure the British and French into disorganized pursuit and then turn and cut them up in detail, these Napoleonic strategies have failed, for the pursuit is in the hands of the cavalry, which can draw off to a flank whenever assailed.

Then Gen. Zabel spoke out, saying:

"The Allies believe the 250,000 Germans freed by this titanic retreat will be added to the German armies along the Belgian frontier for a drive toward Calais. British armies and guns await that issue with confidence."

The Allies advanced yesterday along a 100-mile front, the British penetrating from two to eight miles and the French from five to ten. At one point the French have advanced twenty-two miles in two days. The British yesterday occupied forty villages and the French twenty. The important towns of Ham and Chauny fell into the hands of the French.

British and French aviators, scouting far to the front, are dropping bombs by the hundreds on the columns of the retreating Germans and swooping low to earth, are spraying them with machine gun fire, inflicting serious losses.

"Pursuit of the enemy continued to-day."

1,000 SEE TUGBOAT SAVE THREE FROM DEATH IN RIVER

Thrilling Rescue of Woman, Boy and Policeman Opposite Carl Schurz Park.

A crowd in Carl Schurz Park witnessed this afternoon a double rescue in the East River which no prepared movie scenario could stage, because only the providential arrival of a tugboat saved three persons, a woman, a boy and a policeman, from drowning in the East River in the sight of a thousand people.

As it is, all three are in Reception Hospital, the woman and the boy very ill, but out of danger, the policeman in shape to report for duty to-morrow.

Carl Schurz Park extends from East Eighth-street to East Eighty-ninth-street along the river front. Mrs. Ethel Duffy of No. 84 East End Avenue went to the pier at the foot of East Eighty-sixth-street at 2 o'clock this afternoon, sat on the stripplene, became dizzy and fell into the river. She was carried out by an eddy and swept downstream.

On the pier, playing with other boys, was Ernest Fabrica, fifteen years old, of No. 353 East Twenty-third-street. Without taking off even his hat, he had dived into the water and struck out for Mrs. Duffy.

He reached her and caught her by the hair, but was unable to make headway shoreward against the eddies and the tide. At the lower end of the park, on patrol, was Policeman Edward Hommel of the East Eighty-eighth-street Station.

Hommel heard the cries of the crowd on shore, but it was a minute more before he made out young Fabrica and Mrs. Duffy in the water. He had to climb down a steep bank to reach the water's edge. On his way he threw off his overcoat and, as intrepidly as young Fabrica, he dived into the icy stream.

A strong swimmer, he reached the woman and the boy, but both were exhausted and Fabrica was rattled and they grabbed the policeman and pulled him under. Half a block further down the river the struggling trio came to the surface again.

A quickwitted tugboat captain had seen the dramatic incident in its unfolding, although he had been far up the river when Mrs. Duffy fell in. Driving his craft at full speed and aided by the tide, he reached the three just as they were about to go down again. His deckhands had lined the rail with boathooks and the exhausted trio were hauled aboard.

The tugboat was headed for the foot of East Seventieth-street, where the Reception Hospital is located. Dr. Whitman of the hospital staff, summoned by continual sounding of the tugboat whistle, was on the pier when the craft drew alongside, and Mrs. Duffy and her two rescuers were hurried in and given treatment. Prompt use of the pulmotor saved the lives of Mrs. Duffy and young Fabrica.

'ALL SAFE,' CABLES CAPTAIN OF SUNKEN CITY OF MEMPHIS

Mystery as to Landing, Since Boat Containing Missing Men Was Seen Empty.

NO AMERICAN PERISHED.

Message From Glasgow Tells of Arrival There of Last of the Ship's Crew.

A cablegram telling of the arrival at Glasgow, Scotland, of the missing eight officers and men of the crew of the American freight steamship City of Memphis, sunk last week in the German submarine zone off the British Isles while proceeding in ballast from Cardiff toward New York, was received here to-day by W. H. Piesanin, President of the Ocean Steamship Company of Savannah, owners of the vessel.

With the safety of these men assured, it becomes certain that the destruction of the City of Memphis involved no loss of American lives. The forty-nine others of the crew had previously been reported as landed.

The cablegram received here to-day was sent from Glasgow to Capt. L. P. Borum, of Norfolk, master of the lost freighter, and reads: "Memphis sunk seventeenth. Ship's boats separated. During the night three boats containing forty-nine men reported landed Irish coast. Myself and remaining landed Glasgow, trying to assemble crew."

Some hours after the freighter was sunk the life boat which was known to have contained the captain and seven companions was found empty at sea. It had been surmised the men had either been taken aboard a German submarine and held prisoners or had been rescued by a ship not carrying a wireless. The owners here are without information as to how the men reached Glasgow.

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIPS SHELLED UNWARNED

Attacked Outside the Danger Zone by Submarine Though They Had Safe Conduct.

LONDON, March 20.—The London office of the Commission for Relief in Belgium has given the Association in Belgium has given the Association Press the following statement regarding the shelling of the relief ships Tunsle and Haelen, with the killing of a number of the members of their crews, reported in last night's despatches:

"The Tunsle and the Haelen were attacked by a submarine without warning outside the danger zone, 56.15 North latitude, 5.33 East longitude (off the southwest coast of Norway). The ships were not sunk. The port boat of the Haelen was smashed by a shell and seven men were killed. The killed include the first and third officers."

"The ships had double sets of lighting equipment and safety markings; also safe conducts issued by the German Government."

Movie Men Argue for Sunday Show Bill

(Special to The Evening World.) ALBANY, March 20.—Moving picture men from all parts of the State came to the Capitol to-day to urge the passage of one of the bills permitting movie picture exhibitions on Sunday. Their representatives went before the Senate Codes Committee to present their arguments this afternoon.

U. S. TO CLEAR SEA ROUTES OF SUBMARINES AND MAKE THE COAST U BOAT PROOF

Wilson's Advisers Firm as Cabinet Meeting Opens for Preparations for Actual Hostilities — Navy Speeds Work on War Craft.

IMMEDIATE SESSION OF CONGRESS IS URGED.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—President Wilson will issue a proclamation to-day, it is believed, declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany. The proclamation may be made public after the Cabinet meeting this afternoon.

As the Cabinet convened the sentiment was generally expressed that the United States is virtually in a state of war.

While saying they believed a declaration of war unnecessary at this time, the Cabinet members were firm in their stand for preparations for hostilities.

The Navy Department has received from the President and issued to subordinate commanders orders which can be construed only as war measures. American lives, and interests are to be protected.

REICHSTAG LEADER URGES DEMOCRACY FOR PRUSSIA

Scheidemann, Socialist, Warns Von Bethmann-Hollweg of the Peril of Delay.

BERLIN, (via London), March 20.—Philipp Scheidemann, Socialist leader in the Reichstag, says in the Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts:

"It does not require many words to explain why almost the whole world is arrayed against us. The answer is given quickly. The whole world sees among our enemies more or less developed forms of democracy, and in us it sees only Prussians."

"Why does the Chancellor shrink back now from unconditional necessity? Always the hesitator, the procrastinator, Bethmann-Hollweg wants to begin to cure Prussia after the war. Russia also promised all reforms after the war. But the war lasted too long for the Russians."

"The difficulties which might arise if the Government adopts the Reichstag system of elections for Prussian elections are as a featherweight as compared with the difficulties which will come. It does not do this."

DANES TO DEFY U BOATS.

Organization to Keep Shipping on the Seas is Formed.

LONDON, March 20.—An organization of Danish shipowners has been formed with the object of keeping Danish shipping on the seas in spite of the submarine war, a Reuter despatch from Copenhagen reports.

The New Orleans Navy Yard was to-day ordered to build at once four submarine chasers. The New York yard yesterday was ordered to build sixty. The Department has called upon all navy yards fitted to undertake small boat construction, to submit estimates as to the number of submarine chasers they can turn out quickly.

Bremerton, Mare Island, Portsmouth, Boston, Charleston and other yards probably will be assigned to construction of chasers to the full extent of their capacity. It is possible that the construction of 150 or 200 chasers may be provided for in this way, in addition to 200 or more to be ordered to-morrow from private builders.

The chasers are designed to do 35 knots and will be equipped with triple propellers and a fuel capacity for long cruising radius.

President Wilson is taking the position that at all events the nation must be placed in a better state of preparedness because he believes that from a practical standpoint Germany is making war on this country.

While the situation now facing the nation has been anticipated by the President ever since the submarine question between the United States and Germany became acute, he is considering it again now from all angles because of the far reaching questions involved in an active entrance of the United States into the war.